Gervais Hits Statement By Ward

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Pershing Gervais, former chief investigator for Orleans Parish District Attorney Jim Garrison, today objected to being mentioned in a statement by Charles R. Ward concerning the bail bond system in New Orleans.

Ward, former first assistant to Garrison who is now running for DA against his former boss, said in the statement that at one point he fired Clyde Merritt, an accountant in the DA's office, because of Merritt's close association with Gervais.

In a statement, Gervais said:

"I am genuinely perplexed since I have unequivocally spent infinitely more time in the company of Mr. Ward than any other member of the DA's staff. I am even more perplexed because yesterday I asked Mr. Ward about his statement and he denied having made it. And, unlike Mr. Ward, I can prove what I say. I would remind Mr. Ward of that."

(Editor's note: Ward's statement to the States-Item was in writing.